

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/16/2012 3:21:43 PM
To: "Banerjee, Neela" <neela.banerjee@latimes.com>
CC:
Subject: RE: Deadline request re Dimock water

Neela -- Sorry for the delay...

1. How conclusive is this finding? I ask b/c an opposite finding in Pavilion, WY late last yr by EPA was deemed preliminary.

These are the final results for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. These results have all gone through a quality assurance review.

2. Does it support this statement made by Cabot: We are pleased that data released by EPA today on sampling of water in Dimock confirmed earlier findings that Dimock drinking water meets all regulatory standards.

EPA's priority has always been to ensure safe drinking water is available to the residents of Dimock. Because the data available to us when we started our review was incomplete and of uncertain quality, we felt it was important for EPA to collect our own samples so we could consider, based on sound science, any appropriate further actions. Now we are getting analytical data of known quality and are concurrently sharing that data with the respective residents, and evaluating the data to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether alternate water should be provided or whether additional sampling is needed to improve our understanding of the water quality at specific private wells.

3. What explains the water problems the families on Carter Road have been facing?

EPA has not done any detailed review to determine the cause. Our focus is first and foremost on the drinking water quality of residents.

4. How long will EPA continue to supply them with water?

At this time we have a complete data package for three of the four homes to which we originally provided alternate water. We are pleased to report that at the three homes there were no contaminants found at levels that present a health concern. Because experience has shown that some variability is common in private well water quality, we believe a second round of sampling at the homes where contamination was reported in the past would assure ourselves and the residents about the quality of their well water. While we are taking that second round of sampling at the three homes, we believe it is prudent to provide alternate water to assure they have water of known quality for drinking and for household use.

5. What does this mean for the resumption of hydraulic fracturing in the area?

EPA was not involved in the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. That action was taken by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

6. In layman's terms, how does EPA determine if problems with water are caused by hydraulic fracturing or oil and gas ops in general?

EPA has not done any detailed review to determine the cause. Our focus is first and foremost on the drinking water quality of residents

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From: "Banerjee, Neela" <neela.banerjee@latimes.com>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/16/2012 12:19 PM
Subject: RE: Deadline request re Dimock water

Thanks, Roy.

A few qs:

1. How conclusive is this finding? I ask b/c an opposite finding in Pavilion, WY late last yr by EPA was deemed preliminary.
2. Does it support this statement made by Cabot: We are pleased that data released by EPA today on sampling of water in Dimock confirmed earlier findings that Dimock drinking water meets all regulatory standards.
3. What explains the water problems the families on Carter Road have been facing?
4. How long will EPA continue to supply them with water?
5. What does this mean for the resumption of hydraulic fracturing in the area?
6. In layman's terms, how does EPA determine if problems with water are caused by hydraulic fracturing or oil and gas ops in general?

Thanks and allbest
Neela

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From: Roy Seneca [mailto:Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Banerjee, Neela
Cc: Terri-A White
Subject: Re: Deadline request re Dimock water

Neela -- Here is the EPA statement about the first round of sampling at 11 homes. If you email me your questions, I will try to get you responses asap.

On Jan. 19, as a result of requests from residents and a review of the data we had in hand, EPA announced it would perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns.

The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes.

Out of the 11 homes tested, there are currently three homes receiving an alternate water supply provided by EPA. EPA will continue to provide water to these homes while we perform additional sampling to ensure that the drinking water quality at these homes remains consistent and acceptable for use over time. EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels meet drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells. After receiving results from the second round of sampling, EPA will re-evaluate the need to continue providing an alternate water source.

EPA has offered to meet with all the residents to go over their data and answer any health-related concerns. As further quality assured data becomes available for the remaining homes, we will share with the homeowners in an expedited manner. Our actions will continue to be based on the science and the law as we work to help get a clear picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock.

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From: "Banerjee, Neela" <neela.banerjee@latimes.com>
To: Bonnie Smith/R3/USEPA/US, Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/16/2012 11:21 AM
Subject: Deadline request re Dimock water

Hello,

Cathy Milbourn at EPA HQ suggested I contact you. I read late yesterday that EPA has issued findings that state that there is no evidence of contamination of well water in Dimock, PA by hydraulic fracturing. Is that the case? if so, could I get a copy of the report ASAP?

Are any of your scientists available to clarify any questions that might arise once I get the report? My deadline is 4 pm today, ET, so I really need that report

Thanks and allbest
Neela

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